

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00599 261502Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W
-----058517 262136Z /66

R 261419Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4280

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 599

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC NS
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: GOVERNMENT FUNDED LOW-COST HOUSING PROGRAM

REF: 77 PARAMARIBO 1035; STATE 98275

1. GOS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PLANS THOUGH FINANCED WITH DUTCH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS DO NOT PRECLUDE THE USE OF NON-DUTCH CONTRACTORS. DUTCH FIRMS WILL BE GIVEN A PRIORITY; AT LEAST ONE AMERICAN FIRM, AS PART OF A CONSORTIUM ALSO INVOLVING DUTCH AND SURINAMESE FIRMS, HAS BEEN AWARDED A MAJOR CONTRACT FOR A DUTCH-FAINCND PROJECT. EMBASSY ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOS HAS ALREADY INVITED ONE WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN CONTRACTOR WITH SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN LARGE SCALE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO COME TO SURINAM TO STUDY THE LOCAL SITUATION.

2. HOWEVER, THE HOUSING PROGRAM IS STILL MOVING RELATIVELY SLOWLY WITH THE GOS STUDYING VARIOUS FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS. WE CANNOT PREDICT HOW FAST THE GOS WILL MAKE DECISIONS IN THIS AREA, BUT WE DOUBT WHETHER CONTACTS WITH NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN THE HAGUE WOULD BE OF MUCH USE. SHOULD MR. STONES KNOW OF ANY DUTCH HOUSING CONSTRUCTION FIRMS WITH WHOM HE MAY WISH TO WORK, HOWEVER, HE MIGHT CONSIDER SOME SORT OF JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT WITH ONE OR MORE OF THEM.

3. FYI, GOS IS FAR BEHIND ON ITS PLANS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING BOTH BECAUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOTTLENECKS AND SHORTAGE OF
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PAGE 02 PARAMA 00599 261502Z

LABOR AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS. THE SITUATION IS NOT LIKELY TO IMPROVE VERY RAPIDLY AND THE BEST WE CAN ADVISE MR. STONES IS TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH GOS OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONMAKING IN THIS AREA, I.E. TOP OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND HOUSING.
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